

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1 1. (canceled)

1 2. (currently amended) A candle in accordance with claim 18 [[+]], wherein the rings are  
2 of differing compositions.

1 3. (previously presented) A candle in accordance with claim 2, wherein the rings have  
2 differing coloring agent compositions.

1 4. (previously presented) A candle in accordance with claim 2, wherein the rings have  
2 differing fragrances.

1 5. (canceled).

1 6. (currently amended) A candle in accordance with claim 18 [[+]], wherein the core has  
2 a lower melting point from the rings.

1 7. (previously presented) A candle in accordance with claim 2, wherein the rings have  
2 engaging ends that have mating surface contours.

1 8. (currently amended) A candle in accordance with claim 18 [[+]], wherein the rings  
2 have a circular cylindrical periphery.

1 9. (currently amended) A candle in accordance with claim 18 [[+]], wherein the rings  
2 have a square cylindrical periphery.

1 10. (canceled)

1 11. (currently amended) A candle in accordance with claim 18 [[+]], wherein the core  
2 extends a selected distance above an upper-most stacked ring.

1 12. (currently amended) A candle in accordance with claim 18 [[+]], wherein the core has  
2 a bottom flange extending radially to form a base.

1 13. (previously presented) A candle in accordance with claim 12, wherein the base has a  
2 melting point higher than the core.

1 14. (previously presented) A candle in accordance with claim 12, wherein the base is  
2 comprised of wax.

1 15. (previously presented) A candle in accordance with claim 12, wherein the base is  
2 comprised of a non-flammable solid.

1 16. (previously presented) A candle in accordance with claim 12, wherein the periphery  
2 of the rings is substantially in conformity with the periphery of the base.

1 17. (previously presented) A candle in accordance with claim 12, wherein at least one  
2 ring has a recessed cavity that is matingly engageable around the base.

1 18. (new) A candle comprising:

2 (a) a central, axial core of candle fuel having a wick extending axially within the  
3 central core; and

4 (b) a plurality of candle fuel rings, each of the rings having an opening receiving  
5 and surrounding the axial core and slidable along the core, the rings being  
6 arranged in a stack around the central core.